

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-10 and 16-18 are pending. Claims 1, 6 and 16 are amended herein. No new matter is added as a result of the claim amendments.

103 Rejections

The instant Office Action states that Claims 1-3, 6-10 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fichou et al. ("Fichou;" U.S. Patent No. 5,602,830) in view of Widjaja et al. ("Widjaja;" U.S. Patent No. 5,406,556). The Applicants have reviewed the cited references and respectfully assert that the present invention as recited in Claims 1-3, 6-10 and 16-18 is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Fichou and Widjaja, alone or in combination.

Applicants respectfully agree with the statement in the instant Office Action that Fichou does not disclose establishing a second order for transmitting data packets that is different from a first order, where the order for transmitting data packets is based on the data packets' respective destination addresses. Applicants respectfully submit that Widjaja does not overcome the shortcomings of Fichou, based on the following rationale.

According to Widjaja, a "split bit" is initially set to zero (0) for all packets. At sort network 60, packets are ordered according to their "activity bit" and then by destination. At trap network 70, if two or more adjacent packets have the same address, the split bit remains at 0 for the first packet that has that address, and is changed to one (1) for the other adjacent

packets that have that address. Thus, some number of adjacent packets that have the same address will all have their split bit set to 1 (that is, all adjacent packets that have the same address, except for the first packet that has that address, have a split bit set to 1).

According to Widjaja, the packets are then sorted by sort network 80. In essence, packets are sorted based on the value of their split bit (in combination with a value of the activity bit) and then according to their destination address. The details of the sort are provided beginning at column 6, line 67, of Widjaja. After sorting by sort network 80 into a sequence of packets, those packets that have a split bit equal to 0 are in the first part of the sequence, while those packets that have a split bit equal to 1 are in the latter part of the sequence.

Thus, according to Widjaja, when more than two adjacent packets at trap network 70 have the same address, sort network 80 will place the first of those adjacent packets into the first part of the sequence, and will place the remainder of those adjacent packets into the latter part of the sequence. Importantly, according to Widjaja, the remainder of those adjacent packets that have the same address and that are placed into the latter part of the sequence will remain adjacent to each other in the sequence.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Widjaja, alone or in combination with Fichou, does not show or suggest “a mechanism for selecting from said data packets according to their respective destination addresses, said mechanism for establishing a second order for

transmitting said data packets that is different from said first order, said second order based on respective destination addresses of said data packets, said second order comprising all of said data packets received in said first order, said second order established by first selecting one data packet having said first destination address and second selecting one data packet having said second destination address, wherein said first selecting and said second selecting are alternated” as recited in independent Claim 1 (emphasis added). Claims 2 and 3 are dependent on Claim 1 and recite additional limitations.

Also, Applicants respectfully submit that Widjaja, alone or in combination with Fichou, does not show or suggest a method that includes “establishing a second order for transmitting said data packets that is different from said first order, said second order based on respective destination addresses of said data packets, said second order comprising all of said data packets received in said first order, said second order established by first selecting one data packet having said first destination address and second selecting one data packet having said second destination address, wherein said first selecting and said second selecting occur on alternate turns” as recited in independent Claim 6 (emphasis added). Claims 7-10 are dependent on Claim 6 and recite additional limitations.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Widjaja, alone or in combination with Fichou, does not show or suggest “a driver that selects from said data packets according to their respective destination addresses,

said driver for establishing a second order for transmitting said data packets that is different from said first order, said second order based on respective destination addresses of said data packets, said second order comprising all of said data packets received in said first order, said second order established by first selecting one data packet having said first destination address and second selecting one data packet having said second destination address, said first selecting and said second selecting alternately continued through said data packets” as recited in independent Claim 16 (emphasis added). Claims 17-18 are dependent on Claim 16 and recite additional limitations.

In summary, Applicants respectfully submit that Fichou and Widjaja, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the present invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 6 and 16, and that the basis for rejecting Claims 1, 6 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed. Applicants also respectfully submit that the basis for rejecting Claims 2-3 (dependent on Claim 1), Claims 7-10 (dependent on Claim 6), and Claims 17-18 (dependent on Claim 16) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed, as Claims 2-3, 7-10 and 17-18 are dependent on allowable base claims and recite additional limitations.

Conclusions

In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims.

Based on the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-3, 6-10, and 16-18 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these claims.

Applicants have reviewed the reference cited but not relied upon. Applicants did not find this reference to show or suggest the present claimed invention: U.S. Patent No. 5,612,959.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 10/4/04



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NOTICE OF DRAFTSPERSON'S PATENT DRAWING REVIEW

The drawing(s) filed (insert date) 2/19/99 are:

A. ☒ approved by the Draftsperson under 37 CFR 1.84 or 1.152.

B. ☐ objected to by the Draftsperson under 37 CFR 1.84 or 1.152 for the reasons indicated below. The Examiner will require submission of new, corrected drawings when necessary. Corrected drawing must be submitted according to the instructions on the back of this notice.

1. DRAWINGS. 37 CFR 1.84(a): Acceptable categories of drawings:

Black ink. Color.

☐ Color drawings are not acceptable until petition is granted.

Fig(s) _____
☐ Pencil and non black ink not permitted. Fig(s) _____

2. PHOTOGRAPHS. 37 CFR 1.84 (b)

☐ 1 full-tone set is required. Fig(s) _____

☐ Photographs not properly mounted (must use bristol board or photographic double-weight paper). Fig(s) _____

☐ Poor quality (half-tone). Fig(s) _____

3. TYPE OF PAPER. 37 CFR 1.84(e)

☐ Paper not flexible, strong, white, and durable.

Fig(s) _____
☐ Erasures, alterations, overwritings, interlineations, folds, copy machine marks not accepted. Fig(s) _____

☐ Mylar, velum paper is not acceptable (too thin).

Fig(s) _____

4. SIZE OF PAPER. 37 CFR 1.84(f): Acceptable sizes:

☐ 21.0 cm by 29.7 cm (DIN size A4)

☐ 21.6 cm by 27.9 cm (8 1/2 x 11 inches)

☐ All drawing sheets not the same size.

Sheet(s) _____

☐ Drawings sheets not an acceptable size. Fig(s) _____

5. MARGINS. 37 CFR 1.84(g): Acceptable margins:

Top 2.5 cm Left 2.5cm Right 1.5 cm Bottom 1.0 cm

SIZE: A4 Size

Top 2.5 cm Left 2.5 cm Right 1.5 cm Bottom 1.0 cm

SIZE: 8 1/2 x 11

Margins not acceptable. Fig(s) _____

Top (T) _____ Left (L) _____
Right (R) _____ Bottom (B) _____

6. VIEWS. 37 CFR 1.84(h)

REMINDER: Specification may require revision to correspond to drawing changes.

Partial views. 37 CFR 1.84(h)(2)

☐ Brackets needed to show figure as one entity.

Fig(s) _____

☐ Views not labeled separately or properly.

Fig(s) _____

☐ Enlarged view not labeled separately or properly.

Fig(s) _____

7. SECTIONAL VIEWS. 37 CFR 1.84 (h)(3)

☐ Hatching not indicated for sectional portions of an object.

Fig(s) _____

☐ Sectional designation should be noted with Arabic or

Roman numbers. Fig(s) _____

8. ARRANGEMENT OF VIEWS. 37 CFR 1.84(i)

☐ Words do not appear on a horizontal, left-to-right fashion when page is either upright or turned so that the top becomes the right side, except for graphs. Fig(s) _____

9. SCALE. 37 CFR 1.84(k)

☐ Scale not large enough to show mechanism without crowding when drawing is reduced in size to two-thirds in reproduction.

Fig(s) _____

10. CHARACTER OF LINES, NUMBERS, & LETTERS.

37 CFR 1.84(i)

☐ Lines, numbers & letters not uniformly thick and well defined, clean, durable, and black (poor line quality).

Fig(s) _____

11. SHADING. 37 CFR 1.84(m)

☐ Solid black areas pale. Fig(s) _____

☐ Solid black shading not permitted. Fig(s) _____

☐ Shade lines, pale, rough and blurred. Fig(s) _____

12. NUMBERS, LETTERS, & REFERENCE CHARACTERS.

37 CFR 1.84(p)

☐ Numbers and reference characters not plain and legible.

Fig(s) _____

☐ Figure legends are poor. Fig(s) _____

☐ Numbers and reference characters not oriented in the same direction as the view. 37 CFR 1.84(p)(1)

Fig(s) _____

☐ English alphabet not used. 37 CFR 1.84(p)(2)

Fig(s) _____

☐ Numbers, letters and reference characters must be at least .32 cm (1/8 inch) in height. 37 CFR 1.84(p)(3)

Fig(s) _____

13. LEAD LINES. 37 CFR 1.84(q)

☐ Lead lines cross each other. Fig(s) _____

☐ Lead lines missing. Fig(s) _____

14. NUMBERING OF SHEETS OF DRAWINGS. 37 CFR 1.84(t)

☐ Sheets not numbered consecutively, and in Arabic numerals beginning with number 1. Sheet(s) _____

15. NUMBERING OF VIEWS. 37 CFR 1.84(u)

☐ Views not numbered consecutively, and in Arabic numerals, beginning with number 1. Fig(s) _____

16. CORRECTIONS. 37 CFR 1.84(w)

☐ Corrections not made from prior PTO-948 dated _____

17. DESIGN DRAWINGS. 37 CFR 1.152

☐ Surface shading shown not appropriate. Fig(s) _____

☐ Solid black shading not used for color contrast.

Fig(s) _____

COMMENTS

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